



Energy and Environmental Affairs

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Massachusetts to Mobilize 16 Firefighters to Help Battle Canadian Wildland Fires

State Joins International Coalition of Wildland Firefighters

BOSTON – Tomorrow, Thursday, August 3, 2017, the Department of Conservation and Recreation's (DCR) Bureau of Forestry and Fire Control and Department of Fish and Game (DFG) will be mobilizing 16 state wildland firefighters from across Massachusetts to travel north and assist British Columbia Canadian forces with a series of wildland fire outbreaks.

Media wishing to attend the mobilization should meet at Hopkinton State Park. Massachusetts' team of 16 will be traveling to New Hampshire to join four Granite State firefighters before continuing to Quebec City.

Across British Columbia, Canada, over 110 active wildland fires are burning over more than one million acres of land and forcing thousands to evacuate their homes. Massachusetts wildland firefighters will serve alongside an international community of firefighters, including from Mexico. The crew will actively engage in direct fire suppression to combat the out of control fires, by working on the fire line, building fire breaks, securing fire perimeters, containing fires, and protecting important structures. Due to the rural terrain and location of the fires, crews will sleep in tents or in remote fire camps.

The DCR and DFG firefighters who are assisting with the Canadian wildland fires, include: Robin Armstrong (DCR), Conway, MA; Thomas Benoit (DCR), Worcester, MA; Andrew Bond (DCR), Medfield, MA; Kenneth Canfield (DCR), Westminster, MA; Conor Clancy (DCR), Merrimac, MA; Christopher Connors (DFG), Stafford Springs, CT; Nathaniel Cowan (DCR), Orange, MA; Zachary Favreau (DCR), Orange, MA; Jonathan Hallinan (DCR), Ipswich, MA; Benjamin Jennell (DCR), West Newbury, MA; Brian Johnson (DCR), Ashburnham, MA; Roy Liard (DCR), Millville, MA; David Luongo (DCR), Sandwich, MA; Brian Mayer (DCR), Townsend, MA; Benjamin Mazzei (DFG), Pelham, MA; and, Joseph Nawrocki (DCR), New Salem, MA.

WHO: 16 DCR and DFG Firefighters

WHAT: Mobilization to combat British Colombia wildland fires

WHERE: Hopkinton State Park, 164 Cedar Street, Hopkinton, MA, 01748

WHEN: 9:00AM

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The Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR), an agency of the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs, oversees 450,000 acres of parks and forests, beaches, bike trails, watersheds, dams, and parkways. Led by Commissioner Leo Roy, the agency's mission is to protect, promote, and enhance our common wealth of natural, cultural, and recreational resources. To learn more about DCR, our facilities, and our programs, please visit www.mass.gov/dcr. Contact us at mass.parks@state.ma.us.

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